

GENERAL ORDERS, }

No. 55.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, May 24, 1862.

I..The following Act of Congress is published for the information of all concerned :

AN ACT to authorize the appointment of medical storekeepers and chaplains of hospitals.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of War be authorized to add to the medical department of the army, medical storekeepers, not exceeding six in number, who shall have the pay and emoluments of military storekeepers in the quartermaster's department, who shall be skilled apothecaries or druggists, who shall give the bond and security required by existing laws for military storekeepers in the quartermaster's department, and who shall be stationed at such points as the necessities of the army may require: *Provided*, That the provisions of this act shall remain in force only during the continuance of the present rebellion.

SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the President of the United States is hereby authorized to appoint, if he shall deem it necessary, a chaplain for each permanent hospital, whose pay, with that of chaplains of hospitals heretofore appointed by him, shall be the same as that of regimental chaplains in the volunteer force; and who shall be subject to such rules in relation to leave of absence from duty as are prescribed for commissioned officers of the army.

Approved May 20, 1862.

II..The following are the Regulations which will govern the appointment of medical storekeepers under the first section of the foregoing act of Congress :

1. A board of not less than three medical officers will be assembled by the Secretary of War to examine such applicants as may, by him, be authorized to appear before it.

2. Candidates, to be eligible to examination, shall be not less than 25 years, or more than 40 years of age; shall possess sufficient physical ability to perform their duties satisfactorily; and shall present with their applications satisfactory evidence of good moral character.

3. Candidates will be required to pass a satisfactory examination in the ordinary branches of a good English education, in pharmacy and materia medica; and to give proof that they possess the requisite business qualifications for the position.

4. The board will report to the Secretary of War the relative merit of the candidates examined, and they will receive appointments accordingly.

5. When appointed, each medical storekeeper will be required to give a bond in the amount of \$40,000, before he shall be allowed to enter on the performance of his duties.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

L. THOMAS,

Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL:

Assistant Adjutant General.